

## Western Region moves ahead

**Cadet Command realignment includes new commanders**

Story and photos by Bob Rosenburgh

On the heels of a major restructuring of U.S. Army Cadet Command and its subordinate headquarters, Western Region welcomed Col. Steven R. Corbett, its new commander, on Aug. 27 at the same time it bid a fond farewell to the outgoing commander, Col. Daniel S. Challis.

"It is truly an honor to be here and be a part of this ceremony today," said Maj. Gen. Alan W. Thrasher, who has himself recently taken charge of Cadet Command at Fort Monroe, Va. "We mark the departure of a magnificent commander and welcome an equally-talented commander to the ranks of Cadet Command." Among the luminaries attending the event were retired Gen. John Shalikashvili, ex-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and his wife.

Cadet Command, which is part of the newly-formed Accessions Command, was reorganized this year following inactivation of its 1st Region. The remaining regions, 2nd at Fort Knox, Ky. and 4th at Fort Lewis, Wash., were then reorganized into the Eastern and Western Regions, respectively, with seven new brigades in each consolidated from schools throughout Cadet



The Salute Battery, composed of U.S. Army Reserve soldiers, fired a 15-gun cannonade and a three-gun cadet salute.



Col. Steven R. Corbett assumed command of Western Region, U.S. Army Cadet Command, on Aug. 27.

Command. As a result, Western Region grew from a command overseeing 78 college senior ROTC programs in 21 states and two territories, to one with 140 universities in 31 states and two territories.

Challis assumed command in

1999 when the unit was still named 4th Region (ROTC). During his time in command, he also served as the National Advanced Leadership Camp commander every summer, on top of his region duties.

"Well over 16,500 cadets trained at NALC," said Thrasher, "during Dan Challis' tenure," adding that his positive impact on the Army's future will be felt for many years to come. "Your personal stamp is on each of them, as well as tens of thousands of others who benefited from your leadership as a region commander." Challis was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and the Washington National Guard Legion of Merit.

Thrasher also had high praise for Mrs. Challis and her support for her husband and the Army family. The Challis's are retiring with their son and daughter, Lee and Lindsay, to San Antonio, Texas.

"Yes, the Challis family is a tough



Col. Daniel S. Challis and Maj. Gen. Alan W. Thrasher stand with the JROTC Color Guard from Lakes High School.

act to follow," Thrasher continued, "but Steve and Laura Corbett are clearly another command team that will lead the Western Region to new heights." Corbett commanded 4th Brigade, 91st Division at Fort Lewis before taking charge at Western Region. His wife is also an Army Reserve officer.

In the course of the ceremony, a 15-gun salute was fired to render honors as well as a three-gun cadet salute. Thrasher ensured those who made the event a success were honored, in particular the JROTC Color Guard from Lakes High School in Lakewood, Wash.



Mrs. Laura Corbett, the new commander's wife, is presented a bouquet by Sgt. 1st Class Pamela Knight.





Welcome to the first edition of the Goldbar Leader for School Year 2003-04! First off, let me congratulate every soldier and civilian in the Region for making the Army's commissioning mission for 2003. This is a major objective that you all secured through your dedication and hard work. Forging the lieutenants who lead America's Army is one of the two most important things the Army does, and you all should be proud of the quality and numbers of great young Americans you commissioned this year.

This is my first article as the Western Region commander, so I should introduce myself. My family and I are joining the great Western Region team after commanding the 4th Brigade, 91st Division (Training Support) here at Fort Lewis. I'm a product of the old 4th Region as a Junior ROTC cadet (Capital High School in Boise, Idaho), an ROTC commissionee (Boise State), and a former APMS/detachment commander from 1988-1990. During my previous ROTC assignment, I was the sole cadre member at a small school in southern Oregon, where I taught all of the Military Science levels, coached the Ranger Challenge team, the color guard, acted as the recruiting officer and the supply technician. Sometimes, I washed the windows and vacuumed the floor!

My predecessor, Col. Dan Challis, led this region for four tough years and is now making his retirement home in San Antonio, Texas. I want to publicly recognize the dedication of both Dan and his wife, Susan, who worked tirelessly to support every cadre member, family member and cadet in the command. They are taking a well-deserved break before embarking on post-retirement adventures.

This was a record year for Ca-



Col. Steven Corbett

det Command and our region. We made mission, we ran one of the largest and safest National Advanced Leadership Camps in memory and we expanded the region to now include 140 senior programs and more than 700 high school JROTC detachments. The 2003-2004 school year will provide us all even greater challenges as the Army continues its historic transformation, as well as fighting the Global War on Terrorism and the ongoing operations in Iraq. On that note, I want to remind everyone that we have 69 members of our region deployed as both individuals and as members of mobilized Guard and Reserve units. Additionally, there are hundreds of officers that we have commissioned over the years who are serving in harm's way. I ask that you keep them and their families in your thoughts until their safe and victorious return.

I am very excited to be a member of the Western Region team and I deeply appreciate the hard work and selfless service of all of our senior and junior program cadre and our college and junior cadets. Whether college or high school cadets, these young people are our future and America needs their skill, patriotism and sense of values to steer our nation in the years ahead. I am proud to have some small part in their development. I look forward to meeting you all and visiting your campuses and high schools in the coming months.

**Train To Lead!**

First let me congratulate everyone associated with the command, as the region and Cadet Command made their commissioning missions this year. This is the first time in years that we have accomplished this. Our success in this endeavor is clearly a direct result of the hard work, dedication and professionalism you all demonstrate on a daily basis. Again, thank you.

To all of our cadets as you enter a new year and a new era in Cadet Command. You need to ensure that you prepare yourself for everything that lies ahead. You need to accept and understand that you are in a competitive environment, and it's quickly becoming more competitive.

Over the last two or three years the command has become more selective: the acronym SAL (scholar/athlete/leader) has become part of our vocabulary. More of the events at the National Advanced Leadership Camp (NALC) have become a requirement for camp graduation credit - land navigation being the most recent example. In the future it may be swimming, or perhaps any number of other events, that will demand more effort on your part.

The point is that everything you do - academics, conduct and ROTC-related events - in fact, paints a pic-



Command Sgt. Maj. Lewis Ferguson

ture of you. That whole-person picture and perspective that you have worked hard to create is then used to assess you. As the command enjoys continued success with recruiting and retention, we can and will be more selective in commissioning and assessing our officers.

You are a part of a performance-based system, the beauty of which is that much of it is quantitative. You directly control the outcome of most of the things used to evaluate you. So as the command raises the bar, I encourage each of you to do the same. Apply yourself in everything you do, and above all, it's all-important to make good personal choices. Make sure that the picture your efforts are painting both fairly and accurately represent who you really are. Good luck! I look forward with each of you to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

### Goldbar Leader distribution changes to match new region

By Bob Rosenburgh  
Editor

A lot has changed in the last year and organizations throughout Cadet Command, including the Western Region Public Affairs Office, have found the need to be flexible and responsive to remain effective. The significant increase in both Junior and Senior ROTC battalions in the new region means that we must now revisit our distribution scheme and adjust accordingly.

In the past, *Goldbar Leader* has been mailed to both levels of schools, but funding constraints and the limited size of our print run means we can now only mail to the larger number of Senior battalions. For our high schools, the newspaper will be posted on the region website. Since they will not see this issue until they log on, I urge the brigade HS coordinators to inform their SAIs of the change so they can spread the word to their schools and cadets.

## Bobcat Battalion cadet trains in Argentine Andes



Capt. Charles Nolan

A group of U.S. and Argentine cadets prepared for mountain-climbing. Cadet Adam Nixon, from Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Wash., is in the second row, fourth from the left.

**By Cadet Adam Nixon**  
**Central Washington University**

This summer, I had a unique opportunity to accompany four West Point cadets on a two-week exchange visit to Argentina.

I was one of 11 ROTC cadets in the United States selected to participate in the Olmstead Foundation's cultural immersion program. The program, which began this year, allows ROTC cadets to travel abroad and experience another nation's culture firsthand. For me, it was a great success and a wonderful experience.

Each Olmstead Scholar travels to a different country, so their experiences are unique. My experiences in Argentina offer insights into

the program.

The trip began in Buenos Aires where I joined the West Point cadets and the group's liaison officer, Capt. Charles W. Nolan.


The six of us spent our first week at the Military Academy of Argentina near the nation's capital, Buenos Aires. There, the other cadets and I experienced Argentine cadet life during the day and sampled the nation's culture at night. We met several senior military officers and trained with Argentine cadets at their academy, also visiting several historical sites and military museums in the area. We dined in traditional restaurants, enjoyed local entertainment, shopping in the city's markets

and sightseeing at every opportunity.

We didn't get much sleep during the trip because we were trying to cram as many activities as we could into each day during our one-week stay in the capital.

Our group spent the second week in the mountain city of Bariloche. This resort getaway is nestled in the Andes Mountains near the Chilean border. It also houses the Argentine Military Mountain School, where soldiers develop skiing, mountain rescue, cold weather operations, rock-climbing, rappelling and mountain warfare skills.

At the school, we American cadets received instruction in each of these areas while also sampling some of the school's practical training. We learned beginning and intermediate rock-climbing techniques, scaled a nearby mountain and learned to ride and load the mules that the Argentine Army relies on for mountain operations. Between training events, we toured the city, mingled with the local population, and generally enjoyed ourselves. One high point was a half-day, off-road excursion through the winter mud on all-terrain vehicles.

The entire trip was an unforgettable experience. I learned a great deal about the history of Argentina, especially about some of the more recent events such as the Falklands War. I was also able to experience the culture of a nation and learn the viewpoints of a people half the world away from my small, college town of Ellensburg. It is exciting that such amazing opportunities are being offered to future officers to help them to develop the skills, knowledge and world awareness that are essential for the leaders of tomorrow. 

## CWU Cadet is honor grad at Mountain Warfare School

**By 2nd Lt. Josiah Pickett**  
**Central Washington University**

Cadet Jonathan Pickett answered a question with another question when asked why he chose Mountain Warfare School over Airborne training. "Why would anybody choose to fall out of a plane, when they can go rock climbing and rappelling instead?" This reasoning earned the Central Washington University cadet a slot in the Army Mountain Warfare School in Jericho, Vt., after graduating from National Advanced Leadership Camp.

The Army Mountain Warfare School is a demanding course with 14 continuous days of training. During these two weeks, students must ruck march twice a day with a 45- to 65-pound rucksack. On most days the training lasts 12 to 14 hours.

"The two biggest things to prepare for this school are physical fitness and land navigation," explains Pickett. "The only other part is just how fast you can learn your knots and systems." He


also explained that, while the hardest task was learning the rope systems and knots, land navigation was a close second. Pickett said more than 30 percent of the students failed to graduate because they could not meet one of these two requirements.

Many of the course's training events were both challenging and exciting. Students performed various Small Unit Mountain Operations (SUMO), where they had to complete tasks such as evacuating a casualty from a mountain using rope bridges and other systems. They even undertook this task at night. There were three days of rock climbing and the students completed every climb, or SUMO, by rappelling to safety.

"I thought a lot about how much something like this would cost in the civilian world and realized that it would be difficult to find anything like this in the civilian world," Pickett said. "The

instructors knew everything about mountaineering," he added. This claim is no exaggeration; the school's instructors have completed mountain

eering schools in many different countries, and have climbed several of the world's tallest mountains. Their combined accomplishments include completing the Norwegian Winter Warfare School, the Swiss Mountain School, the Ecuadorian Mountain School, and the Austrian Mountain School.

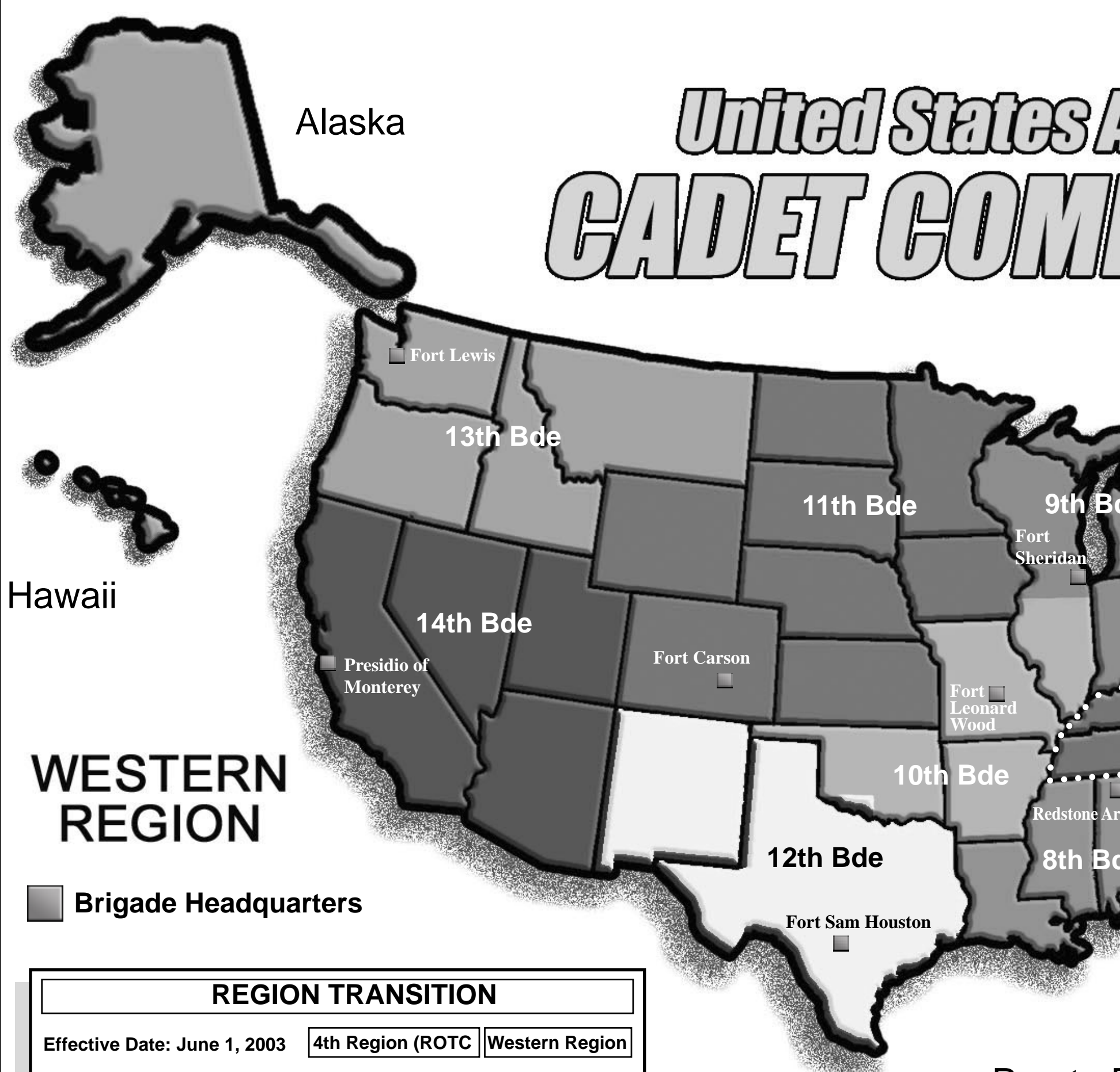
Pickett graduated from the Mountain Warfare School as the class honor graduate. In recognition of the accomplishment, he received the Army Achievement Medal and a book titled, "Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills," frequently called the mountaineer's bible. His name will also be engraved on a plaque that records the school's honor graduates. 



**Cadet Jonathan Pickett**



# United States Army CADET COMMAND



## WESTERN REGION

■ Brigade Headquarters

REGION TRANSITION			
Effective Date: June 1, 2003		4th Region (ROTC)	Western Region
Senior ROTC programs.....	78.....	140	
Junior ROTC Programs.....	443.....	779	
States in Region .....	21.....	31	
Territories in Region .....	2.....	2	
Brigades.....	4.....	7	

Puerto Rico  
the Virgin Islands

Army  
MAND



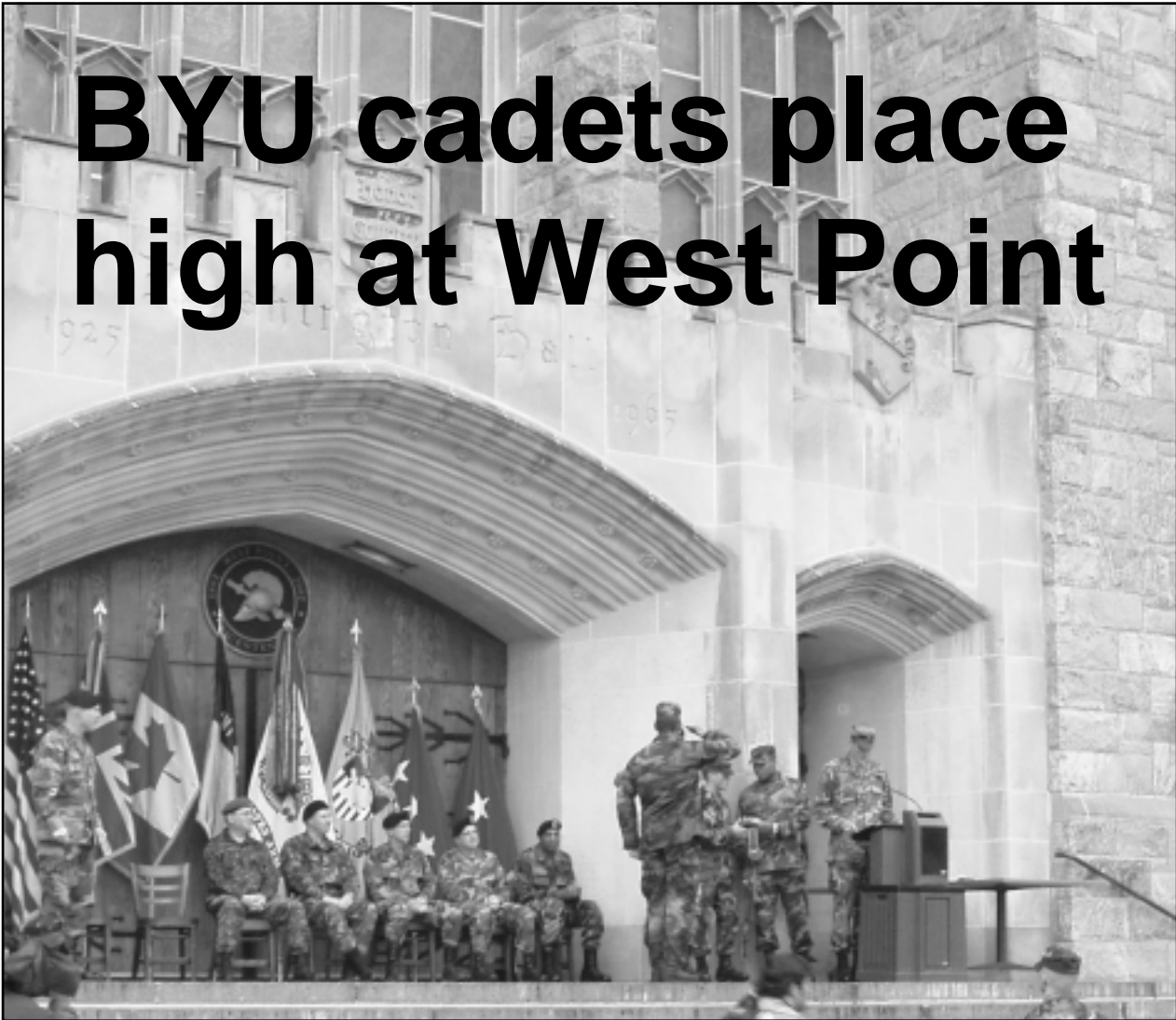
Rico and  
in Islands

WESTERN REGION SCHOOLS

ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY	TEXAS STATE UNIV. STEPHEN F.
ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY	AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
AUBURN UNIVERSITY	TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
AUBURN UNIVERSITY AT MONTGOMERY	TEXAS A&M UNIV.-COLLEGE STATION
GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY	TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE
JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY	TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY	THE UNIV. OF TEXAS-ARLINGTON
MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE	THE UNIV. OF TEXAS-AUSTIN
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY& A&M COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-EL PASO
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA	UNIV. OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO
TULANE UNIVERSITY	UNIV. OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN
TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY	COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM	CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI	IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA	MINNESOTA STATE UNIV.-MANKATO
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA	SAINT JOHN'S UNIV.-MINNESOTA
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY	SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY	AND TECHNOLOGY
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY	SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
INDIANA UNIVERSITY-BLOOMINGTON	UNIV. OF COLORADO-BOULDER
INDIANA UNIV.-PURDUE UNIVERSITY	UNIV. OF COLO.-COLORADO SPRINGS
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY	UNIV. OF MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN
NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
PURDUE UNIVERSITY-WEST LAFAYETTE	UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
ROSE-HULMAN INST. OF TECHNOLOGY	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO	UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN	BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERITY OF NOTRE DAME	CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE	EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON	GONZAGA UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-OSHKOSH	MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIV. OF WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT	OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY	PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY
WHEATON COLLEGE	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
CENTRAL MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA-FAIRBANKS
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
LINCOLN UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
MISSOURI WESTERN STATE COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND
SOUTHERN ILL. UNIV.-CARBONDALE	UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SOUTHERN ILL. UNIV.-EDWARDSVILLE	WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIV.	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY	BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS	CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	UNIVERSITY-SAN LUIS OBISPO
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS	CALIFORNIA STATE UNIV.-FRESNO
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA	CALIFORNIA STATE UNIV.-FULLERTON
UNIV. OF ILLINOIS-URBANA-CHAMPAIGN	CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA	NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ROLLA	SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA	SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
WENTWORTH MILITARY ACADEMY &	UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA-BERKELEY
JUNIOR COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-DAVIS
WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY	UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA-LOS ANGELES
CAMERON UNIVERSITY	UNIV. OF CALIF.-SANTA BARBARA
NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE	UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY	UNIV. OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY	WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY







Brigham Young University's team captain, Cadet Tyler Jensen, salutes as he is presented ninth-place honors in a field of 45 top ROTC teams from around the United States and the United Kingdom.

After taking first place in their brigade's Ranger Challenge, Brigham Young University's Army ROTC was invited to compete for the first time in the 2003 Sandhurst Competition at West Point. The competition began in 1967 when the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, England, presented West Point with a sword. It was to be the prize for a competition. The concept of the competition is for nine cadets to form a team with at least one female team member. Teams are also authorized to bring two alternates. Scoring is based on the team performing a series of military tasks while moving non-tactically and rapidly over a partly-prescribed route of about nine kilometers in a 175-minute time period.

On April 26, a group of 11 cadets from BYU's ROTC took ninth place at the Sandhurst military competition at West Point Military



BYU Cadets Chuck Ashcraft and Tate Larsen await their turn for the Point-4 Marksmanship competition.

Academy. "Our goal was to place in the top 10," said Sgt. 1st Class Sean M. Polwort, BYU's Team Coach. "Ninth is the highest any ROTC team has ever placed." Forty-five teams participated in the

competition - five ROTC teams, two Sandhurst teams from the United Kingdom, 33 USMA Teams, one USNA Team, one USAFA Team, one USCGA Team, one USMAPS Team and one Team from the Royal Military College Canada.

BYU arrived at West Point a few days early to train on the actual course. A couple of West Point cadets assisted the BYU team by showing them the course and providing some helpful hints on how to overcome a few of the obstacles. Polwort and the alternates ran alongside the nine cadets throughout the entire competition and acted


### Events and Scoring:

- \* Movement 150 Points
  - \* Site 1 - Equipment Inspection. 75 Points
  - \* Site 2 - NBC. 75 Points
  - \* Site 3 - Boat Movement. 75 Points
  - \* Site 4 - Marksmanship. 145 points
  - \* Site 5 - Grenade Throwing. 90 Points
  - \* Site 6 - River Crossing. 100 Points
  - \* Site 7 - Wall Obstacle. 100 Points
  - \* Site 8 - Rappelling. 100 Points
  - \* Site 9 - Commandant's Challenge. 90 Points
- Total Points Possible: 1000

as motivators, Polwort said. He said they were prepared to pick up the slack if anyone got injured.

BYU's team consisted of team captain Tyler Jensen, Joshua Thyer, Edward Patterson, Erin Machamer, Chuck Ashcraft, Dustin Miner, Lee Case, Tate Larson and Mark Hornby. Julia Mills and Michael Weipert served as the team's alternates.

"The competition was physically exhausting," said Polwort. "But because we developed a tight bond as a team, we could ensure we finished as a team."

The Sandhurst Blue team won the overall competition this year, but BYU is hoping to go next year and win. 

## Arkansas cadet has awesome CTLT experience

Courtesy of  
Arkansas State University

Cadet Chad Casey of Arkansas State University, a clinical lab sciences major and potential medical service corps commissionee, went to Rome, Italy, where he recently took advantage of an opportunity of a lifetime. When Casey signed up for Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT) after the 2003 National Advanced Leadership Camp, he never imagined he



Cadet Chad Casey in Rome, Italy. would find himself in Italy, Germany, or any place that would be considered a vacation by most. Although Casey traveled to Hawaii last

year to complete Air Assault training, his trip to Wurzburg, Germany, for CTLT was a different experience for him. "I learned a lot about Roman and European History," Casey said. "We got a three-day weekend, so I jumped on a train, and headed down to Italy". Casey attended CTLT after completing NALC at Fort Lewis, Wash. He said, "I would go to CTLT again, if given the opportunity. It was an awesome experience."



Cadet Chad Casey at a statue in Wurzburg, Germany.

# Utah cadets walk Gettysburg, Antietam battlefields



Back Row: Justin Card, Doan Nguyen, Jacob Harris, Lindsey Curtis, Steven Clyne, Starlynn Stout, Brian Slade, Jovanna Aday, Cody Shepard, Mindy Jones, Josiah Griffin, Matthew Young, Eric Bezold, Scott Bezold, Gabby Flores, Pat Magill, Wayne Clyne, Patti Salisbury, Eric Salisbury. Front Row: Haskel Sabillion, Kate Curtis, Shawn Harris, Cameron White, Kelly Kimber, Joseph Nydegger, Drew Wilson and Russell Kirkham.

**By Capt. Reece Roberts  
and 2nd Lt. Shawn Harris**

Utah State University Army ROTC, known as the “West Point of the West” since 1947, is ensuring that today’s Army cadets receive an education making them competent and successful officers for tomorrow. Toward that goal, 25 USU Army ROTC cadets recently traveled across the United States to attend a military history seminar developed by their cadre. The experience broadened understanding of military history and Army tactics and deepened their understanding of the principles of war.

Through support and assistance from several ROTC battalions in Maryland as well as the Maryland National Guard, cadets spent less than \$400 apiece, including costs for food, lodging and airfare on the week-long trip. They received on-location instruction at some of the most important military sites in the country, including Gettysburg and Antietam battlefields. Those attending the seminar were allowed to bring spouses, providing a low-cost opportunity for student couples to spend time together while earning college credit.

The staff ride, a guided on-location tour of a battlefield, is an important component of the Cadet Command curriculum.

“We’re battlefield deprived here

in Utah,” said Lt. Col. Rand Curtis, an instructor at USU. “We wanted something more exceptional than what is typically available to Utah schools. One of our objectives was for our cadets to be broadened by the experience.” That objective was certainly met. “There’s so much more history there [in the Eastern States],” said Cadet Eric Salisbury. “It was better than any other three-credit class I’ve taken.”

Students were instructed by professional guides at the Gettysburg and Antietam battlefields. The guides tailored their explanations of the battles to the curriculum taught in ROTC courses. Being “on the ground” with guides gave the USU cadets an in-depth understanding of the conditions where American soldiers fought and where their officers made decisions.

“You read about the battles in books but you can’t understand what it was like for the generals or soldiers unless you’ve been there and have seen stuff the way they did” said Cadet Cameron White.

Those attending the seminar had the opportunity to tour historical sites at Harper’s Ferry, Washington D.C., Baltimore, and Philadelphia. They visited with Utah Senators Hatch and Bennett in Washington D.C. and received a staff tour of the Capitol building. A trip to Arlington National Cemetery gave cadets a solemn

occasion to reflect on what it means to live the Army values and be a leader. While visiting Baltimore, the group visited Fort McHenry and had a tour explaining the vital role of the Army in the days when coastal fortifications constituted the nation’s first line of defense. Cadets received hands-on experience with ropes and tackling while visiting the Navy’s sloop of war, the USS Constellation – sister ship of the famous frigate, USS Constitution.

Plans for next summer’s seminar are already underway. They include adding new areas of interest such as the Manassas battlefield. USU Army ROTC is uniquely committed to offering outstanding learning experiences for cadets that better prepare them as future officers. This year’s trip was an exceptional opportunity for USU cadets to complete Cadet Command curriculum, earn college credit and prepare to serve as leaders in tomorrow’s dynamic army. 

Capt. Reece Roberts

## 2nd Louie

By Bob Rosenburgh



# Boiler Battalion does Zero Week:

By 2nd Lt. Kathryn Zuk

Photos courtesy of Purdue Univ. ROTC

One week before classes begin on the Purdue University main campus of West Lafayette, Ind., the cadets of the “Boiler Battalion” assemble for an event called Zero Week. This annual program is vital to getting the new academic school year off to a solid start by introducing seasoned cadets to their new duty assignments for the school year and also introducing new cadets to the campus, community and ROTC. Initially, MS-IVs gather to complete preparations for the incoming company leadership. The following day, the MS-III cadets arrive and have the day together to develop a template and overall strategy to train the new incoming cadets. The MS-Is and MS-IIIs arrive for a two-day program on the fourth day to help integrate them into the ROTC program. Aside from the usual introductions, briefings and initial supply issues, cadets concentrate on team building, both by Military Science class and by platoon and company. Cadets work together and compete in several FLRC-style



The semiannual Change of Command Ceremony takes place on the Thursday during Zero Week.

events that help them quickly build friendships and ease them into their new campus environment.

Zero Week mirrors a similar program at Purdue for incoming freshman called Boiler Gold Rush (BGR). BGR provides students an opportunity to meet other students of the same peer groups and thus have a better feeling of what it's like to be in college. Purdue Army ROTC feels that this is a vital part of making the transition, not only from high school to college, but also from student to ROTC cadet. While BGR concentrates on meeting new people and learning the campus, Zero Week focuses on critical thinking and basic military knowledge, as well as meeting those ROTC peers who they will be working with for the next four years. Zero Week is also an important event that helps the Boiler Battalion support Purdue University's strategic goal of pre-eminence through the integration of learning,

discovery, and engagement.

Military training at Purdue has been an integral part of the education experience there since 1876. The program grew during the early 20th century, requiring students to participate in the basic course to learn basic military and artillery knowledge. In fact, between the end of the First World War and the beginning of the Second, Purdue provided



Hamburgers and refreshments are always in abundance during Zero Week.



The ROTC program and Purdue Marching Band share strong ties. The band has formed the signature “Block P” at football games since 1907.

one eighth of all Field Artillery Reserve officers for the Army, along with 12 75mm howitzers. With the National Defense Act of 1916, which established ROTC, and since the program was such a prominent part of the Boilermaker culture, the university built an Armory in 1918 for \$200,000. This armory still houses all the services' ROTC programs - Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines - with a full drill floor, three rappelling units, a small arms range with 42 lanes and ample storage facilities for the Ranger Club, Rifle Club, Drill Team and Recruiting Committee.

Although Zero Week is considered a very

Traditional event introduces new cadets to Purdue, Army ROTC, classmates and heritage



Included in the Zero Week team-building events are various challenges that show what Army ROTC is all about, such as when senior cadets cheer on their fellow junior cadets up the Barrett rock wall.

important kickoff to their school year, there are other events where many Boilermaker cadets participate that have equal importance. Five top Boiler Battalion cadets represented the Army ROTC program at the Purdue Student Leaders' Retreat during the final days of Zero Week. These students include Cadet Patrick Glass, cadet battalion commander, Cadet Paul Lee, Bravo Company first sergeant, Cadet Ameer Azeez, Alpha Company executive officer and MS-IIIs Matthew Wilson and Andrew Repking. Not only do these cadets learn leadership styles and methods from leaders of other student organizations, they also are integrated

into the Purdue community to help other students become acquainted with Army ROTC. Other cadets also provide outreach opportunities on the athletic side of the house such as Cadet Courtney Coppedge, who plays starting forward on the Big Ten Varsity Women's Soccer Team. Performing the first “hat trick” in the history of Purdue Women's Soccer last month, she was named Big Ten Soccer Player of the week for Sept. 22. The battalion's long-standing ties

with Purdue's “All American Band” also continue. Cadet Michael Esposito has been a member of the Tuba section since joining the ROTC program as a freshman.

The Army ROTC Zero Week engages the students in activities to help them learn about Army ROTC, help them discover their full potential and begin their “Warrior Ethos” development. By combining Purdue's strategic vision of pre-eminence with Cadet Command's “Way Ahead” vision, the Boiler Battalion continues on a steady path of producing some of the nation's best leaders. 